

EQUITABLE PEACE.

Policyholders to Vote—Stockholders to Be Indemnified.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All the Officers Reelected—Depew Makes a Harmony Speech.

It was 25 to 17 Against the Alexander Party on a Test-Resolution Adopted. A Committee of 7 to Devise a Plan of Confering Voting Power on the Policyholders and Compensating the Stockholders for What They Surrender—This, It Is Said, May Not Mean Money Compensation for Their Stock, but Some Adjustment of the Voting Power That It Has Enjoyed.

The directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society after a stormy session yesterday afternoon that lasted more than three hours reached an agreement to retire the present stock of the company, to turn the company into a mutual concern and to elect all the old officers. With the addition of several new officers to be chosen the present officials will constitute the new board of directors.

This agreement resulted from a speech made by the president, Mr. Hyde, in which he urged a compromise by the contending factions, and followed with the proposition named, which was adopted. For the surrender of their stock the stockholders are to be indemnified on a basis yet to be devised.

The meeting opened with a personal statement by Vice-President Hyde defending the course of the directors and pointing to the results achieved under their management. He, however, did not refer, except incidentally, to the personal attacks upon him, but sharply criticized the methods of those who had organized the opposition.

President James W. Alexander followed with a statement as to why in his opinion the retirement of Mr. Hyde was desirable. It was also indicated that some drastic measures might be adopted if the new plans proposed should be rejected.

As the discussion proceeded it became more bitter, and all expectation of securing harmony was apparently abandoned when Senator Dewey arose. He counseled the directors to lay aside the personal side of the controversy and remember that the matter was of too great importance to the country and of the entire world, in fact. He then stated his plan for compromise, which was that President Alexander's proposal that the Equitable be transformed into a mutual company should be adopted, and that Mr. Hyde and all the old officers should be reelected.

After a short debate the compromise was put to a vote, and with the exception that the committee to carry out the policy determined on was named in the resolution, and not left to President Alexander to name, was adopted, with only a few dissenting voices. A test vote showed that the Hyde men had 25 votes to 17, three not voting, and they are in the majority on the committee named to report a plan for mutualizing the company, retiring the stock and compensating the stockholders.

Forty-eight of the fifty-one members of the board were present, the absentees being Cornelius N. Biles, J. J. Hill and Sir William C. Van Horne.

INDemnIFICATION OF STOCKHOLDERS. No official comment on the indemnification clause of the agreement was obtainable, but it was taken to mean of course that the stockholders are to be compensated for what they surrender. Their stock is a 7 per cent. stock, par value \$100.00, but its value as a means of controlling the operations of the company may of course be vastly greater. One report is that the money value of the stock is to be appraised; another, that the sentiment expressed at the meeting was in effect that there should be some compensation for the stock interests in the way of a plan by which they could have a voice in the management commensurate with their investments.

To what extent the stock should have voting power is a matter left to the committee. James W. Alexander, who headed the movement against Mr. Hyde, was again chosen president. Mr. Hyde, who controls a majority of the stock, remains vice-president and is chairman of the executive committee and the finance committee. The expectation of the Alexander party that Mr. Hyde would be deposed was not realized, nor was the statement of some Hyde adherents that Mr. Alexander would fall of reelection made good.

As was expected, the Hyde interests remain in practical control, for the executive committee chosen is made up of seven Hyde men to five Alexander men. The finance committee has eight Hyde men to five Alexander men. The committees have the same personnel, except that Jacob H. Schiff is on the finance committee.

None of the officers or directors would comment on the day's work or future possibilities. As they passed out of the directors' room their replies to questions were either "Nothing to say" or "Everything is harmonious."

FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULT. The men who had been behind the petitions were as close-mouthed as the supporters of Mr. Hyde. All had been pledged to secrecy about the meeting. The announcement of what had been done was given out at Mr. Hyde's office, late in the afternoon, as follows:

"At a meeting of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, held at its office, 120 Broadway, at 2 P. M., Feb. 16, 1905, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That in the opinion of the board, the policyholders should be given

COAL FAMINE THREATENED.

Snow and Ice Prevent the Movement of a Full Supply to the Coast.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 16.—A coal famine is imminent in the Eastern part of the United States as the result of the complete paralysis, by ice and cold, of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, and also of the Pennsylvania. The former road is the main carrier of the Pennsylvania anthracite to the seaboard, and its condition will be felt within a short time in a rise in prices. Bituminous shipments are sharing the same fate, and famine equally threatens its consumers.

In Philadelphia to-day there were standing on the Reading tracks about 5,000 freight cars, of which 2,000 were loaded with anthracite, 1,000 with bituminous coal, and the rest with miscellaneous freight. That these cars are stalled is due to the difficulty in getting them unloaded, as teams find it almost impossible to work with the streets in the condition which prevails. The coal in most cars is frozen so tight that in order to unload them the cars have first to be thawed and then the coal picked out.

The holding of these cars at the terminals works against the movement all along the lines and creates a shortage of cars at the collieries, so that shipments are greatly reduced. Not only are the rail shipments held up, but the company's ocean business is also delayed. In all, the company owns ten ocean tugs and sixty barges. Just half of these were to-day plying between Philadelphia and New England ports. The rest are delayed in the ice.

TACKLE INTERBOROUGH AGAIN.

The Trainmen's Union Are Preparing Still More Demands.

The local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America, consisting principally of the trainmen and station men employed in the subway and on the elevated, held a meeting last night in Marion Hall, 1201 Lexington Avenue, and appointed a committee to draw up a list of grievances against the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, including promises made to the employees by the company nearly a year ago, and so the union declares, never fulfilled. The men's agreement with the company expires on March 1. The new committee will then present new demands.

George E. Pepper, president of the union, refused to tell what had taken place at the meeting. A member of the union volunteered the information that the employees "meant business" and that their demands would be "put up to the railroad company good and hard."

"As we wanted to show the company and the public that we were not the disturbers," said this man, "we have stood for many things that are not to the company's advantage. The Interborough company has broken promise after promise. When this new committee meets the officials it will state what promises have not been kept and will make some demands very forcibly."

One who knew about the state of affairs in the union said that, as a matter of fact, Chairman Pepper was in a fix. He has promised to get large concessions for the men, and as he hasn't got much yet it is up to him to make good. He hopes to have the cooperation, direct or indirect, of the motormen's union.

ORDERS STANDARD OIL INQUIRY.

The President Instructs Garfield to Act Vigorously on Kansas Charges.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt to-day directed Commissioner of Corporations Garfield to begin an immediate investigation of the operations of the Standard Oil Company in Kansas. The President's action was taken on representations made to him by Representative Campbell of Kansas, author of the resolution which was passed by the House yesterday requesting the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate "the cause or causes of the low price of crude oil or petroleum in the United States, especially in the Kansas fields."

The President's note to Commissioner Garfield refers to the resolution of the House ordering the inquiry and says only: "Act vigorously on the resolution." Mr. Campbell told the President that the Department of Commerce could get all the evidence it needed against the Standard Oil Company right in Kansas. The company was licensed, he declared, at the action of the State Legislature in establishing a State oil refinery and was showing a disposition to get even by refusing to buy the product of the Kansas oil fields. The offer, he said, declined from \$1.20 to 40 cents, and then the Standard declined to buy at all. The oil men in Kansas were suffering great hardship as a result, he said, for the wells are running over and there is no means of storing more oil in preparation for a time when it may be found possible to sell.

It is understood the investigation will be taken up as soon as the agents of the bureau can reach the ground.

AFTER THE NATURAL GAS MEN.

Kansas Bill to Prohibit Piping the Product Outside of the State.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 16.—Another big fight was precipitated in the House to-day over the bill to prohibit the piping of natural gas by means of pumps to places outside of the gas belt. It is proposed by a Pittsburg, Pa., company to pipe natural gas to Kansas City and other Missouri places. It is charged that the Pittsburg company is an adjunct of the Standard Oil Company.

The bill was passed by a two-thirds majority.

EXPEDITION TO FIND FIALA.

Mr. Champ Reports That the Ziegler Relief Party Will Sail in April.

W. S. Champ, secretary to William Ziegler, returned from Europe yesterday aboard the White Star liner Majestic. He has been organizing an expedition for the relief of Anthony Fiala, which sailed from Norway in June, 1903, and has not been heard from since. Mr. Champ said he had heard from the Dundee steam whaler Terra Nova, and had engaged Capt. J. Kleidner, with a crew of Norwegian seal fishers. She is being fitted out in Scotland and will sail for the Arctic in April. Mr. Champ said that he was not going to dynamite a way through the ice to the relief of Fiala, but that he would use gun cotton to break up the ice if the Terra Nova should be heard from. He will accompany Capt. Kleidner. The opinion of Norwegian Arctic skippers, Mr. Champ said, is that the Fiala explorers have been caught in the ice and are waiting for help. They had plenty of provisions.

15-YEAR-GIRL CASSIES BANK.

GETS CASH ON FORGED CHECKS, DOESN'T KNOW HOW MANY.

Belle & Therese, Milliners, Say She Drew \$500—Messenger in Short Skirts Was Never Suspected at Astor National—Bought Presents, She Says.

A pretty, blue-eyed little girl with dresses by her knees and two braids of black hair hanging down her back nearly to the hem of her skirt walked into the Tendency police station late yesterday afternoon in front of Policeman Brozman. Behind them came Miss Isabelle McCann, who, with her sister Therese, runs a millinery store at 343 Fifth Avenue. The child was crying.

"Prisoner, sergeant," said Brozman to Sergeant Robinson, pointing to the girl.

"What charge?" asked the sergeant.

"Forgery."

The sergeant was startled. He looked incredulous. Then Miss McCann spoke up. She said that she was the complainant and that the charge was true, so the sergeant took the girl's pedigree. She said that she was Margaret Connolly, 15 years old. Her parents were dead, she said, and she lived with her aunt, Mrs. Gilligan, at 933 Eighth Avenue. She was detained at the station house until she was sent to the Gerry society.

Miss McCann and her sister have a large millinery store at 343 Fifth Avenue under the firm name of Belle & Therese. According to Miss McCann, Margaret Connolly, who, although she says she is 15 years old, looks scarcely 12, went to work for her nearly a year ago. She was employed as a errand girl. She was pretty, quick and attentive. Although she wore her hair in plaits and her dresses didn't reach much below her knees she was so trusted and liked by her employers that in a few months' time she was sent on errands to the bank. The McCann sisters banked with the Astor National Bank, near by.

Belle & Therese didn't keep close tabs on their bank account. Late in January, however, they decided that it would be well to have their books gone over and balanced. They called in an expert accountant.

The books showed the firm's funds to be short \$500 to \$600. The balance in the bank didn't agree with their cash book. There wasn't enough money to the firm's credit.

Several days were spent in watching the various employees. No one thought of suspecting little Maggie Connolly. Almost daily she was sent to the bank to deposit checks or cash.

Yesterday morning, however, Miss McCann had a talk with the bank people. They reminded her that many checks had been drawn of late to Belle & Therese, made out to cash.

"Why, we have never drawn any such checks," exclaimed Miss McCann. "Who had them cashed?"

"The little girl," answered the bank clerk.

Miss McCann said that there must be a mistake. The clerk was sure there wasn't. "Only day before yesterday she came in and drew \$40," he said. "The check was made out to cash and signed 'Belle & Therese.'" She got the money.

Miss McCann went back to the store, picking up Policeman Brozman. When Maggie was questioned she began to cry. She said the Misses McCann and the other employees. Maggie didn't deny her guilt.

"Oh, give me another chance," she pleaded, falling down on her knees. "I'm sorry. Give me another trial. I'll be good."

In the Tendency police station Margaret had a talk with Mrs. Rose Daly, the matron, and later with Detective Morton. According to Morton, the young prisoner made a clean breast of her forgeries.

She hadn't at first since she said, and hadn't the remotest idea how many checks she had drawn or how much money she had obtained. She spent the money to buy gifts for her friends and children who lived in her neighborhood, she said.

Maggie's employers paid her \$6 a week. She turned that over to her aunt, the police said, but never gave the aunt any of the proceeds of her forgeries. The police believe that she has not spent the money, but has hidden away.

Maggie will be arraigned this morning in the Children's Court. The police believe that by morning the Misses McCann will not be over anxious to prosecute the case. Miss Belle McCann was weakening some when she appeared in the police station.

The Misses McCann, the police and the bank clerks declare that the girl's signature to the checks was an exceedingly good facsimile of the genuine signature.

Mrs. Gilligan, the child's aunt and guardian, said last night that Margaret had lived with her for six years. Her mother died some twelve years ago and her father three years ago. Mrs. Gilligan was unable to throw any light on her niece's conduct.

The girl, she said, had always been very good. She hadn't bought any new clothes recently and if she had stolen money the aunt was unable to account for it.

Margaret, so her aunt said, had always come home promptly in the evening. She regularly attended Night School 17 and had received a ring as a prize for proficiency in spelling. Quite often she had been entrusted with money to deposit in one of the branches of the Citizens Exchange Bank by Mrs. Gilligan's married daughter and had never stolen anything.

GAVE CODY "DRAGON'S BLOOD."

Testimony That His Wife Put a Poisonous Mixture in Col. Cody's Coffee.

CHRYSTIE, Wyo., Feb. 16.—Sensational testimony marked the opening hearing here to-day of the divorce suit brought by Col. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill). Mrs. Bouvier of North Platte, the first witness for Cody, testified that on three occasions Mrs. Cody gave Col. Cody doses of "dragon's blood," which made him deathly sick.

Mrs. Cody, according to the witness, said she did not care if the concoction did kill him. She gave it to him, it was testified, so she could control him and get him to sign papers. The mixture was procured from a druggist, the witness said, and was given to Cody with his coffee.

Mrs. Bouvier also testified that Mrs. Cody was of quarrelsome disposition and frequently spelt in the faces of her children and fought with her husband and others at North Platte ranch and farm. On cross-examination the witness reluctantly stated that Col. Cody "got very drunk frequently."

The cross-examination brought out that Cody paid marked attention to numerous women.

NEW HAVEN STRIKE VOTED.

Firemen Decide Overwhelmingly to Go Out If Demands Are Refused.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 16.—The poll of the 1,400 firemen on the New Haven railroad system as to whether they favored a strike should the directors of the road decide against the claims of the firemen to represent engineers in labor grievances was completed to-night.

Official figures of the vote were refused by the firemen's executive committee, but it was learned unofficially that the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of striking. The decision of the five directors on the plea of the firemen's executive committee, made at the company's office in New York on Tuesday, is expected to-morrow and the firemen believe it will be against them.

FOUND COL. ASTOR'S PURSE.

Weber Music Hall Watchman Says There Was \$60.00 in It—Lay on Floor of Box.

Ben Clarke, the watchman of Weber's Music Hall has been wearing all kinds of new clothes for the last few days, and every one connected with the Music Hall has been asking him if his salary had been raised. Clarke had to answer this question so many times that yesterday he made a confession which he swears is true. Said he:

"At 1 o'clock last Thursday morning I heard a great thumping at the stage door, and I goes 'round there to investigate. When I opens the door I finds a tall slim gent with a silk deer and fur lined coat."

"I want to look in a box where I was to-night," said the man to me.

"I told him he couldn't come in; that it was against the rules. He wouldn't have said 'But I left something in that box, and I want it,' said the man."

"Then he pulls out a wad, and he hands me a five spot and tells me to go and chase myself to Box L and see if I find anything lying on the floor."

"I left the man standing outside the door and I chases up to the box. On the floor I found a wallet. I had to take a peep at the contents, and there were six yellow \$100 bills. On the wallet was the initials, J. J. A. I wasn't going to give up that roll without knowing more about the owner, and I asked him who he was."

"I'm Col. John Jacob Astor," the man said, and as the name fitted the initials, why I turned him over the wallet."

"He went away and told me he was much obliged. The next day he sent me \$100 and told me not to say anything about my finding his money. I wouldn't have said anything if I wasn't sick of being kidded about these new clothes I'm wearing."

It's all gospel truth and I'll swear it on a bunch of Bibles."

JEWS SHOCKINGLY ABUSED.

Socialist Paper in Berlin Prints Letters Telling of Outrages at Moshitz.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Feb. 16.—The *Vorwaerts*, a Socialist organ, printed letters from Moshitz, a Russian shtetl, that early in February the police, taking advantage of the ferment among the workmen, arrested several of them, mostly Jews, who were brutally beaten in the police station until they were unconscious.

They were then thrown downstairs, where they were beaten again. Later they were handed over to the detachment of the police who battered them with their muskets, breaking limbs and fingers, and otherwise crippling a hundred of them.

Several girls were flogged almost to death. Others were crippled. Two doctors offered to attend the wounded, but they were insulted by the police master, who thanked God that Prince Mirsky was no longer Minister of the Interior.

Some Jewish schoolboys were also victimized. One was thrown down and deliberately trampled upon. The eyes were gouged out of another boy, who is dying.

S. L. BARRIETT'S WIVES.

Electrical Inventor Who Died on Tuesday Said to Have Had Two of Them.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 16.—Samuel Lawrence Barriett, an electrical inventor, died last night at his home, which he had made his home in this city for several years and who died suddenly in Dayton, Ohio, on last Tuesday night, it seems had two living wives. One of the wives lives at 122 West Twenty-first street, New York, with her three children. Another woman, whose home is at 184 Hart street, Brooklyn, was also formally notified to-night by wire of the death of her husband, S. L. Barriett.

Barriett had asserted that he had been divorced from the New York woman, the first wife, before marrying the second. A message received to-day from Mrs. Barriett of New York, however, says that she is coming after the body of her husband. The address of Mrs. Barriett of New York was learned here through Mrs. John J. Ryan, wife of the turfman, who knew her very well when she lived in this city with her husband. While the Barrietts were living here it is asserted that Mrs. Barriett gave her husband \$3,000 to use in his electrical inventions.

The second wife made her appearance here about that time, threatening Barriett with serious trouble. It is understood that this trouble was averted then by Barriett paying the second wife \$2,000. Finally, the first Mrs. Barriett and her husband had a disagreement, and she returned to New York with her children, where she has since resided.

Barriett was the inventor of some improvements in ordnance which the United States Government utilized during the war with Spain, and it is said that Barriett resigned a Government place to come to this city and engage in the manufacture of some of his inventions.

At first it was reported that there were indications of suicide in Barriett's sudden death, but the Coroner to-day decided that death was due to congestion of the lungs.

Mrs. Barriett of 184 Hart street, Brooklyn, says she is the wife of S. L. Barriett and that her husband is connected with the Barriett Electric Company, at 26 Cortlandt street. Mrs. Barriett lives in a brownstone house. She said she had no other wife or husband, and she had never heard of a second one living in Manhattan. Mrs. Barriett said her husband went to Cincinnati five or six years ago and that he frequently paid her visits.

Georgia Barriett, the alleged wife in this borough, keeps a boarding house at 122 West Twenty-first street.

SEABOARD FLORIDA LTD., Pa. R.R. leaves New York every day at 12:35 noon, making quick time in both directions between New York and Jacksonville. A superb train. For route booklets inquire any P. R. R. office or 1349 B way. —Ad.

JOHN DOING POLITICIANS?

GRUBER'S FIRM RISES UP FOR HALPIN AND MATHEWS.

Asks Jerome if He Has Anything Against Them to Proceed in the Ordinary Tribunal—Possible Explanation of the Acquittal at the Little Hungary Dinner.

There was a story around the Criminal Court Building yesterday that the Grand Jury was investigating or was about to investigate a charge in which a lawyer who plays politics was concerned. It is known that Black, Olcott, Gruber & Bonyne have written a letter to District Attorney Jerome concerning the matter. Also Gruber said last night that ex-Judge Olcott had written the letter. Mr. Gruber added:

"We have heard that Jerome and two of his assistants, Garvan and Kresel, have been going around talking about charges against Republican leaders. Evidently Mr. Jerome is trying to intimidate the Republicans into nominating him for some office next fall, but we don't care for him. In the letter Mr. Olcott mentioned the names of Mr. Mathews, Mr. Halpin and other friends of our firm, and asked that if Mr. Jerome had any charges to make they be made openly without any John Doe proceedings."

William Halpin is president of the Republican county committee. Armitage Mathews is the secretary of the Republican county committee and was once Alderman from Mr. Gruber's district. It was said that Mr. Olcott, in his letter, protested against any proceedings unless there was an examination before a Magistrate, or the regular proceedings before the Grand Jury.

When Mr. Mathews was asked last night what it was all about he said he had never heard anything about it at all.

When this became known there was some speculation as to what Mr. Gruber had in mind when he made a speech attacking Mr. Jerome at the Hungarian Republican dinner to President Roosevelt. Mr. Jerome made a speech after the President had left the dinner. Mr. Jerome lauded the President and said something about politicians. Then Mr. Gruber made a speech which was not complimentary to Mr. Jerome.

He criticized the action of Mr. Jerome in the Dodge-Morse marriage and divorce investigation, directing attention to the names of Messrs. Furman, Hummel and Steinhardt without any police court examination. Mr. Gruber also made some caustic comments on Mr. Jerome's political ambitions. Mr. Jerome did not hear the speech, as he had left the hall.

The following day Mr. Jerome refused to make any reply to Mr. Gruber's speech. Mr. Jerome was again pestered by reporters yesterday, and he said:

"My reply is nothing more than this: I will not reply to any criticism except from a gentleman, one whom I consider in my class."

TRY NEW MENINGITIS CURE.

Experiments at Gouverneur Hospital Not Yet Complete.

A series of experiments with a proposed new cure for spinal meningitis is being carried on at the Gouverneur Hospital under the direction of Dr. Edward Waitzfelder, one of the hospital's visiting physicians, who lives at 200 West Twenty-second street. Waitzfelder is said to have discovered the proposed remedy. He refused yesterday to discuss the work that was being carried on at the hospital. The whole matter, he said, would be brought out in detail at the proper time before the County Medical Society.

Dr. Waitzfelder said that it would be highly improper for him to discuss the cure before it had been presented to the society.

At the hospital also no information could be obtained in regard to the experiments. From a man familiar with the affairs of the institution, however, it was learned that, although there are hopes that the remedy will turn out to be effective, no results have been obtained yet that would warrant the statement that the new treatment is any more effective than the old. Under the old method, it was said, there were occasional cures, and so far as the experiments with the new have shown the percentage of patients who recover cannot be said to be any greater.

CHANCE FOR CHEAP GAS LAW.

Compromise Measure Suggested Calling for Reduction of Five Cents Yearly.

ALBANY, Feb. 16.—It was rumored to-night that a solution of the New York city gas problem might be met by some kind of a compromise measure which would call for a reduction of five cents a year in the price of gas for New York city until the price would reach 75 cents.

Representatives of the New York city gas companies who have appeared here on other occasions this winter in connection with legislation aimed against these corporations this afternoon appeared before the Senate Committee on Miscellaneous Corporations in opposition to the Fitzgerald Seventy-cent Gas bill.

This bill has been introduced for years and always has been considered the special property of a certain coterie of members of the Legislature. The representatives of the gas companies declared that a 70 cent price for gas was practically confiscation, and that such a law would undoubtedly be unconstitutional.

The greater part of the gas is sold to secure loans, but are forfeited to the Government under the law which makes all smuggled goods contraband. According to the Federal authorities the matter is entirely at the disposition of Secretary of the Treasury Shaw. It is probable that only the unpaid duty on the gas will be retained by the Government. Persons refusing to return jewels known to be smuggled are liable to indictment.

GATHERING CHADWICK JEWELS.

Government Authorities Have \$60,000 Worth of Them for Alleged Smuggling.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 16.—As the result of an order issued by the Federal authorities commanding that all of the smuggled Chadwick jewels be surrendered about \$60,000 worth of gems of various kinds have been turned over to the authorities and other jewels of equal value have been traced and are yet to be returned. Twenty United States Secret Service men have been busy seeking the jewels since Jan. 1, and it is believed that all have now been accounted for.

The greater part of the jewels are held to secure loans, but are forfeited to the Government under the law which makes all smuggled goods contraband. According to the Federal authorities the matter is entirely at the disposition of Secretary of the Treasury Shaw. It is probable that only the unpaid duty on the gas will be retained by the Government. Persons refusing to return jewels known to be smuggled are liable to indictment.

Quickest Line to Cleveland. Leave New York 4:30 P. M., arrive Cleveland 7:30 morning. Cleveland 1:30 P. M. to New York 4:30 P. M. St. Louis 9:45 P. M. to New York Central. No change fare.—Ad.

AMERICAN DUCHESS IN DANGER.

Cigarette Set Fire to Her Overskirt at Ball in Dublin.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The Lady, a weekly newspaper, says that a cigarette on the floor ignited the Duchess of Marlborough's tulle overskirt at Lord Grenville's ball in Dublin and that the next moment her clothing was in flames.

Viscount Chrichton took off his coat and smothered the fire before the Duchess was even conscious. The Duchess was Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt of New York.

CROKER TO STAY INTO MARCH.

Keeping in the Background Let He Be Accused of Political Hawkings.

Richard Croker will not return to England until the end of the second week in March. He is anxious that the estate left by his son Frank shall be settled before he sails.

To one of his friends Mr. Croker said last night that while he would like to meet all his old supporters and to visit the Democratic Club frequently, he was afraid to do so for fear that his motives might be misconstrued, lest, in fact, gossip might insinuate that he intended to take part again in politics in this city. Such an idea was foolish, Mr. Croker said, but all the same he meant to keep in the background as long as he remained here to avoid giving any excuse for irresponsible speculation.